

The Alexander Thomson Society Newsletter

Nº23, February 1999

Duntocher manse revealed



THANKS to the kindness of Pat Malcolm, information services librarian at Clydebank Central Library, West Dunbartonshire Council, we reproduce two newly discovered photographs of one of Thomson's very last significant works, the United Presbyterian at Parkhall, Duntocher. This is most exciting as no other images of this lost building are known.

The house was designed for his friend, the Revd John Stark, Minister of Duntocher West U.P. Church, who later wrote the biographical memoir for the Alexander Thomson Memorial [see Newsletter Nº22]. Thomson's first design was made in 1872; in his letter to his brother George of 20th September 1872, he mentioned that "I made plans for John Stark but the cost when esti-

mated turned out too high and it is not yet decided what to do about it." In the event, either the scheme was reduced in price or Stark found the necessary money, for the manse was built in 1874-75 – Thomson dying while it was under construction. According to the *History of the Congregations of the United Presbyterian Church from 1733 to 1900*, by Robert Small (Edinburgh 1904, Vol.i, p.224),

Inside: John Thomson, farmer and The Library of the Architectural Section

it cost £3,852, which seems excessive considering that Holmwood House only cost £3,620 two decades earlier.

John Stark's manse was destroyed in 1941 in the Clydebank Blitz. David Walker writes that Alfred Lohead remembered it as being "uncommonly good and finely situated on the hillside..." Now, at last, we know what it looked like.

The photographs show a compact, asymmetrical composition in Thomson's mature style. The low-pitched gables with their ornamental timber infill are similar to those on the South Manse at Balfron and at *Castlehill* (before mutilation) in Nithsdale Road. As with *Rysland* (now *Croyland*) in Ayr Road, Newton Mearns, that other late house which Thomson designed for his friend, the measurer John Shields, the windows are very carefully and precisely placed.

What, perhaps, is surprising about Stark's manse is the degree of elaboration, with fully developed architraves and window-surrounds, and one ground-floor window given a cornice on console brackets. And there seems to have been a porch with the sort of Egyptian columns Thomson used at *Ellisland*. No wonder, perhaps, that the design was expensive.

Nineteenth-century O.S. maps show that the house stood on the corner of Parkhall Road and Glenhead Road, looking north down a slope to the Duntocher burn. The entrance drive was in Parkhall Road and there was a coach house to the east. A detached building is visible to the left in the photographs, suggesting that each view was taken from the north-west.

According to Pat Malcolm, the earlier, damaged photograph shown on our cover was taken early this century and shows the minister, the Revd Mr Hyslop, his wife Elizabeth, his two



children, Carrie and John, and the housekeeper (the Revd John Stark had died in 1889 at the age of 62). The second, later photograph (*above*) was copied by the local historian, Sam Gibson, from an unknown source.

After the Second World War, the manse was rebuilt using some of the

original stone but not the original plan:

"... a door was put in a different place. Apparently this caused quite a stushie but the architect fled to Australia leaving the church to sort out the problem!"

The manse is now a private house.

Cases Egyptian Halls

IT is a relief to be able to report that the legal impasse which halted the planned restoration and refurbishment of Egyptian Halls earlier this year seems to have been broken. Mr Derek Soutar of Dundee has bought out the (dubious) Dundee accountant who challenged the Council's compulsory purchase order. This developer is now talking to the ground floor shop owners, to the Council and to Historic Scotland. If general agreement is reached, then work can go ahead without recourse to the courts.

At present, The Morrison Partnership – the Edinburgh archi-

tects acting for Mr Soutar – are clearing rubbish out of the building, and Murray Grigor was able to film inside for his forthcoming television film on Thomson, *Ninevah on Clyde*.

The Society has made no commitment to any one party in these negotiations, as it has always taken the view that what matters is the future of Thomson's warehouse: we are prepared to support whatever individuals or organisations are working in the building's best interests. We can therefore only be pleased by the fact that the consulting engineers acting for Mr Soutar, Peter Stephen & Partners, are not alarmed by the condition of the internal structure of Egyptian Halls and that their proposals seem to be more conservative than those made in the earlier restoration scheme. For instance, the elegant and

original spiral iron staircase at the back of the building is now to be retained, which we welcome. We have therefore given our support to the proposals for repairing the structure made by Peter Stephen & Partners and the Morrison Partnership.

Meanwhile, research suggests that Egyptian Halls was not originally a simple commercial warehouse, as often supposed, but more a bazaar or shopping-centre with an exhibition gallery. In the familiar photograph by Thomas Annan – which was taken in the summer of 1874 – posters in the second floor windows advertise Fraser's Panorama of the 'principal cities' and 'attractive scenery' of England, Ireland and Scotland together with a 'concert party' at the Egyptian Halls, while an advertisement in the *Glasgow Herald* in 1874 mentions

'Free Admission

Grand Musical Promenade

Concerts (free) under the able leadership of Mr Allen (late musical conductor Hengler's Circus) in the Egyptian Halls daily... The Egyptian Halls, 92 Union Street, are now recognised as the great purchasing emporium of the city for all kinds of useful, ornamental, and fancy articles and goods of the newest and most varied description, suitable for marriage or birthday presents.

Particular attention is directed to the Parian figure stalls, near the centre of the hall, as also to the artificial flower and stuffed bird stall, the articles in both being specially adapted for presentation.



Lilybank House picture

By courtesy of Gordon Urquhart of the Glasgow West Conservation Trust, we show an interior of Thomson's addition to Lilybank House when it was known as Lady Margaret Hall and was a hall of residence for Lady Margaret College, the first institution for higher education for women in Scotland, founded in 1877. This is taken from one of several postcards held by the Trust and shows Thomson's new drawing room with a mirror covering almost the whole of the end wall, divided in two by a typically Thomsonian thin column. The arched chimney piece – similar to one in N°4 Great Western Terrace – has since been removed by the University of Glasgow, which now owns and uses the building.

Another stall has just been added for the sale of paper patterns and shapes of the newest Parisian and American styles of ladies' and children's dress, by means of which ladies will be able to make up their own or their children's dresses and thus effect an immense saving. A ladies' lavatory and retiring room in connection with elegantly fitted up refreshment bar. Bellamy's Exhibition, on the top floor, is a sight itself. The Bazaar is open daily..." Another advertisement noted "On the River Wye – Tintern Abbey, one of the Finest Old Ruins in England – It has just been added to Bellamy's Collection

of Architectural Models in the Egyptian Halls. Go and see it. Admission 6d."

All this is surely suggested by the name adopted for Thomson's extraordinary building, for the eponymous Egyptian Hall in Piccadilly in London with its neo-Egyptian facade by P.F. Robinson had opened in 1812 with a lecture room, bazaar and large central hall or 'Waterloo Gallery' in which a complete Egyptian tomb from Thebes was once exhibited as well as curiosities, antiques and paintings by Benjamin Robert Haydon. How good it would be if the Egyptian Halls could again be a place of public resort and entertainment.

by Gavin Stamp

The Library of the Architectural Section

WE ALL crib from Viollet-le-Duc," William Burges once admitted, "although probably not one buyer in ten ever reads the text." And when Frank Lloyd Wright was caught leafing through a big book on Mayan architecture, he slammed it shut exclaiming, "You didn't see that!" As all architects work from precedent – whether ancient or modern – they need their reference books, their cribs. These books need not be read but only looked at or flipped through; what matters is the image, the visual idea, that enters the designer's subconscious. Even so, what was in (and, also, what was not in) the library of a particular architect can tell the historian a great deal both about the workings of a creative mind and about the architectural culture of a particular place and time. Fortunately – thanks to the inexorable processes of death and dissolution – we know what books were in the possession of certain famous architects, for posthumous sale catalogues exist for the libraries of, amongst others, Hawksmoor, Pugin and William Playfair.

But not for Thomson. Yet if ever there was an architect whose library was significant it was surely 'Greek' Thomson. Because he never travelled, never went abroad, it was through publications that he studied the buildings of Greek and Egypt by which he was so influenced. Unfortunately, no list survives of the books in his possession, although it is highly likely that he had a good architectural library (some of the books Thomson must have consulted are discussed by James Macaulay in his chapter in Stamp & McKinstry, eds, 'Greek' Thomson, 1994). As his lectures reveal, Thomson was well and widely read and, in 1934, Mrs W.L. Stewart, gave 880 volumes to the Mitchell Library in Glasgow which had belonged to him and to his son and her father, John Thomson. Disgrace-

CATALOGUE OF BOOKS IN THE
LIBRARY OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF GLASGOW; to which is added
CATALOGUE OF BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY OF THE ARCHITECTURAL SECTION
Glasgow, printed at the University Press... 1883
CATALOGUE OF BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY OF ARCHITECTURAL SECTION OF
THE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF GLASGOW [1883].

- Air, Uses and Abuses of. John H. Griscom, M.D., New York, 1850.
- Allen, C. Bruce. Cottage Building for the Labouring Classes. Lond. 1849-50.
- Antiquités Egyptiennes. Charles Lenormant. Paris, 1841.
- Antiquities of Athens. Stuart and Revett. vols. 2, 3, and 4. Lond. 1787.
- Antiquities of Athens. Stuart and Revett. 1 vol. Lond. 1837.
- Architect, The. Vols. 1 and 2. Lond. 1849-50.
- Architects, Lives of. Francesco Milizia. vol.1. Lond. 1826.
- Architects, Royal Institute of British. Transactions. Lond. 1839 and 1862 to 71. 6 vols. Catalogue of Library. Lond. 1865.
- Architectural Antiquities of Great Britain. J. Britton. 5 vols. Lond. 1835.
- Architectural Dictionary. Peter Nicholson. Lond., no date.
- Architectural Institute of Scotland, Transactions of the. 2 vols. Edin. 1850-54.
- Architectural Magazine and Journal. Vol.4. Lond. 1837.
- Architectural Maxims and Theorems. T. L. Donaldson. Lond. 1847.
- Architectural Parallels. Edmind Sharpe. 2 vols. Lond. 1848.
- Architectural Precedents. C. Davy. Lond. 1841.
- Architectural Sketches. R. Norman Shaw. Lond. 1858.
- Architectura Numismatica. T. L. Donaldson. Lond. 1859.
- Architecture, Ancient Domestic. Dollman and Jobbins. 2 vols. Lond. 1861.
- Architecture and Decoration. Edin. no date.
- Architecture, An historical essay on. Thomas Hope. 2 vols. Lond. 1840.
- A. Palladio. Lond. 1721.
- A. Palladio. Another edition. 1738.
- A parallel of. Roland Freart. No date.
- Batty Langley. Lond., no date.
- Civil. Sir William Chambers. Lond. 1836. Another edition. No date.
- Designs of Buildings. James Gibbs. Lond. 1739.
- Dictionary of. Architectural publication society. A to Q.
- Domestic. Francis Goodwin. 2 vols. 2 copies. Lond. 1834.
- Elizabethan. C. J. Richardson. Lond. 1837.
- Gothic. John Gibbs. Lond. 1854.
- Gothic, origin and progress of. George Moller. Lond. 1824.
- Moderne. Grim. Paris, no date.
- Vitruvius. Joseph Gwilt. Lond. 1826.
- Principles of. P. Nicholson. 3 vols. Lond. 1809.
- Quarterly papers on. 4 vols. Lond. 1844-45.
- Rudiments of. Joseph Gwilt. Lond. 1827.
- Rural. John White. Glasg. 1845.
- Rural. P. F. Robinson. Lond. 1828.
- Specimens of Gothic. A. Pugin. 2 vols. 2 copies. Lond. 1825.
- Examples of Gothic. A. Pugin. Lond. 1831.
- Thomas Rickman. Lond. 1825.
- Tudor. T.F. Hunt. Lond. 1830.
- Architektonische Entwürfe. L. von Klenze. Stuttgart, 1830.
- Art de Bâtir. Jean Rondelet. 5 vols. Paris, 1830.
- Art of Illuminating. M. Digby Wyatt. L. 1860.
- Art Journal. 1849 to 59. 11 vols.
- Exhibition catalogues. Lond. 1851, Dublin, 1853, and Paris, 1855. 1 vol.
- Art Union. 1847-48. 2 vols.
- Arts connected with Architecture in Central Italy. J.B. Waring. Lond. 1858.
- Asylum, Specification of.
- Athens, Antiquities of. Stuart and Revett. Vols 2, 3, and 4. Lond. 1787.

fully, these have been dispersed, uncatalogued and unrecorded, but it seems, however, that they were general books and not architectural works. Thomson's own architectural books were not sold at his death; probably they were kept in the office and so might have continued to be used by the firm of A. & G. Thomson and Turnbull. It has sometimes been suggested that such books were bequeathed to the Philosophical Society of Glasgow but no record of this is made in the minutes of the society published in its *Transactions* in the years following Thomson's death in 1875.

Clues to a few of the books Thomson consulted are in his lecture texts. It is clear from the Haldane Lectures that he was very dependent upon James Fergusson's *Illustrated Handbook of Architecture* of 1855 and that, for Egypt, he also made use of the works of Sir John Gardiner Wilkinson, notably *The Architecture of Ancient Egypt... with remarks on the early progress of Architecture, etc.* published in 1850. A lecture delivered to the Architectural Institute of Scotland in 1853 reveals that Thomson was familiar with the *Voyage dans la Basse et la Haute Egypte* by Vivant Denon of 1802 (English edition 1803) and the monographs on English cathedrals by the great antiquary and topographer, John Britton, as well as with those essential volumes on the *Antiquities of Athens* by James Stuart and Nicholas Revett on which the Greek Revival was largely based. It is also implicit in Thomson's arguments that he had read the polemics in favour of the Gothic by A.W.N. Pugin and John Ruskin and probably knew Gilbert Scott's book on *Secular and Domestic Architecture, Ancient and Modern* of 1857. [All this is discussed in the collected edition of Thomson's lecture texts being published by the Society in 1999.]

- *Antiquities of. Stuart and Revett.* 1 vol. Lond. 1837.
- Ballantine, James. *Painted glass.* Edin. 1845.
- Barlow, Professor. *D.H. Mahan's Civil Engineering.* Glasg. 1838.
- Barry, Charles. *New Palace of Westminster.* Lond. 1849.
- *Travellers Club House.* Lond. 1839.
- Bartholemew, Alfred. *Specifactions for practical architecture.* Lond. 1841.
- Beauty in Grecian Architecture.* Joseph Gwilt. Lond. no date.
- Billings, R.W. *Antiquities of the County of Durham.* Edin. 1847.
- *Architectural Illustrations of Durham Cathedral.* Lond. 1843.
- *Architectural Illustrations of Carlisle Cathedral.* Lond. 1839.
- *Architectural Illustrations of Carlisle Cathedral, descriptive letterpress.*
- *Carlisle Cathedral and Brancepath Church, Tracery of.* Lond. 1842 and 1845.
- *Geometric tracery.* No date.
- *Kettering Church.* Lond. 1843.
- *Infinity of geometric design.* Lond. 1849.
- *The baronial and ecclesiastical antiquities of Scotland.* 4 vols. Edin. 1845-52.
- *The power of form applied to geometric tracery.* Edin. 1851.
- *Temple Church.* Lond. 1838.
- Bowman and Crowther. *Churches of the Middle Ages.* 2 vols. Lond., no date.
- Brick and Marble Architecture of Italy.* George Edmund Street. Lond. 1855.
- British Painters, Sculptors and Architects, Lives of.* Allan Cunningham. 6 vols. Lond. 1830.
- Britton, J., *Architectural antiquities of Great Britain.* 5 vols. Lond. 1835.
- *History of the Cathedral Church of Salisbury.* Lond. 1836.
- *History of the Metropolitan Church of Canterbury.* Lond. 1836.
- and Pugin, A. *Public buildings of London.* 3 vols. Lond. 1825.
- Brooks, S.H. *Designs for public buildings.* Lond. 1842.
- Bruff, Peter. *Engineering field work.* Lond. 1840.
- Brunton, Robert. *Compendium of mechanics.* Glasg. 1837.
- Builders' Magazine.* Andrew G. Cook. Lond. 1819.
- Building Chronicle.* vol. 1. Edin. 1854.
- Building News.* 1857-62. 6 vols.
- Burnett, Sir William. *Preservation of timber.* Lond., no date.
- Byzantine Architecture.* C. Texier and R.P. Pullan. Lond. 1864.
- Cabinet Work.* T. King. Lond., no date.
- Calliat, Victor. *Hôtel de Ville, Paris.* Liège, no date.
- *Parallèle des maisons de Paris.* Paris, 1850.
- Canterbury, Metropolitan Church of. John Britton, F.S.A. Lond. 1836.
- Carlisle Cathedral. R.W. Billings. Lond. 1839.
- *Descriptive letterpress.*
- Carpenter's Treasure.* N. Wallis. Lond., no date.
- Carpentry, Elementary principles of.* Thomas Tredgold. Lond. 1840.
- Cast Iron.* Thomas Tredgold. Lond. 1824.
- Catalogue of books in the Library of Royal Institute of British Architects.* Lond. 1865.
- Cathedral, Canterbury.* John Britton. Lond. 1836.
- *Carlisle.* R.W. Billings. Lond. 1839.
- *Carlisle. Descriptive letterpress.*
- *Durham.* R.W. Billings. Lond. 1843.
- *Salisbury, History of.* John Britton. Lond. 1836.
- *Glasgow.* James Collie. Lond. 1835.
- *Glasgow.* Archibald McLellan. Glasg. 1833.
- Thronheim.* Christiania, 1859.
- Cathedrals in France, Holland, &c.* John Coney. Lond. 1832.
- *Winkles.* Vol. 1. Lond. 1838.
- Chambers, Sir William. *Civil architecture.* Lond. 1836.
- *Another edition.* No date.
- Chevreur, M.E.. *Harmony and contrast of colour.* Lond. 1855.
- Christian, Ewan. *Skelton Church, Yorkshire.* Lond. 1846.
- Churches of the Middle Ages.* Bowman and Crowther. 2 vols. Lond., no date.

Further light on the publications available to Thomson is shed by the list of the holdings of the Architectural Section of the Philosophical Society of Glasgow which was included as a separate item along with a list of all the society's books published in 1883 in a printed catalogue. A copy of this fascinating document is held by the British Library in London but not by the Mitchell Library in Glasgow. The Philosophical Society's library was one to which Thomson contributed and which he may well have consulted, for it was, in fact, the former library of the Glasgow Architectural Society. This society had been founded in 1858 and Thomson was elected its president in 1861, serving two consecutive yearly terms. And we know that he was interested in the society's collection of books because, as Ronald McFadzean notes in his biography, the surviving minutes of the G.A.S. (now in the care of the Glasgow Institute of Architects) record that, on 19th October 1863, "the thanks of the Society were awarded to Messrs A. & G. Thomson... for their valuable subscription to the library in the shape of Schinkel's Works in two volumes," and that, on 18th November 1867, Thomson "brought under notice of the Council a French Work the subjects of which are outlines of the pictures of the great masters which can be purchased for £5 and which he suggested should be added to the library."

By 1868, however, the Glasgow Architectural Society was on the wane and in October 1869 it was decided to combine with the Philosophical Society of Glasgow, to become its Architectural Section. On 12th January 1870, a number of members of the G.A.S. were elected full members of the Philosophical Society; amongst architects, these included Alexander and George Thomson, James Salmon and John Honeyman (but not, surpris-

- Civil Engineering. D.H. Mahan. Edited by Professor Barlow. Glasg. 1838.
- Civil Engineers' and Architects' Journal. 13 vols. Lond. 1837 to 50.
- Club House, Travellers. Charles Barry. Lond. 1839.
- Collic, James. Linlithgow Palace. Lond., no date.
- Glasgow Cathedral. Lond. 1835.
- Colour, Harmony and Contrast of. M.E. Chevreul. Lond. 1855.
- Colours, The power of, in painting. George Field. Lond. 1835.
- Coney, John. Cathedral in France, Holland, &c. Lond. 1832.
- Cottage Building for the Labouring Classes. C. Bruce Allen. Lond. 1849-50.
- Cottages and Villa, Designs for. E. W. Trendall Lond. 1831.
- Cottages, Villas, &c. J. Thomson. Lond. 1840.
- Cunningham, Allan. Lives of Painters, sculptors, and architects. 6 vols. Lond. 1838.
- Davy, C. Architectural precedents. Lond. 1841
- Desgodetz, Antony. Ancient buildings of Rome. 2 vols. Lond. 1771
- Designs, Classical.
- for Gothic ornaments, &c. John Gibbs. Vol. 1. Lond. 1853
- Monuments, &c. T. Faulkner. Lond. 1835.
- for public buildings. S. H. Brooks. 1842.
- for Shop fronts, &c. T. Faulkner. Lond., no date.
- in Architecture. John Soane. Lond., no date.
- Original sketch. David Hamilton 3 vols.
- Dictionary of Architecture.
- Architectural publication society. A to Q.
- of Fine Arts. James Elmes. Lond. 1826.
- Didron, M. Christian Iconography. Lond. 1851.
- Dollman and Jobbins. Ancient domestic architecture. 2 vols. Lond. 1861
- Donaldson, T. L. Architectura Numismatica. Lond. 1859.
- Architectural maxims and theorems. Lond. 1847.
- Douglas, George. Perspective. Edin. 1805.
- Drawing and Perspective. James Ferguson. Lond. 1810.
- Dry Rot. Robert McWilliam. Lond. 1818.
- Durham. Architectural antiquities of county of. R. W. Billings. Edin. 1847
- Durham Cathedral, Illustrations of. R. W. Billings. Lond. 1843.
- Edinburgh, The Mound improvement. R. F. Gourlay. Edin. 1850.
- Egyptian Antiquities. Charles Lenormant. Paris, 1841
- Elmes, James. Dictionary of the fine arts. Lond. 1826.
- Encyclopædia of Architecture. T. C. Loudon. Lond. 1839.
- Engineering Field Work. Peter Bruff. Lond. 1843.
- Faulkner J T. Designs for monuments, &c. Lond. 1835.
- Designs for shop fronts, &c. Lond., no date.
- Ferguson, James. Drawing and perspective. Lond. 1810.
- Field, George. The power of colours in painting. Lond. 1835.
- Fillans, James, Memoir of. James Paterson. Paisley, 1854.
- Flaxman, John. Designs by. 4 vols.
- Foulston, John. Public buildings in the West of England. Lond. 1838.
- Freart, Roland. A parallel of architecture. No date.
- Fresco Decorations of churches and palaces in Italy. Lewis Grüner. Lond. 1854.
- Descriptive letterpress.
- Gandy and Baud. Illustrations of Windsor Castle. Lond. 1842.
- Garry, James. Perspective. Lond. 1826.
- Gau, F. C. Antiquités de la Nubie. Paris, 1822.
- Gell, Sir William. Pompeiana. The topography, edifices, and ornaments of Pompeii. 2 vols. Lond. 1832.
- Geometric Design, Infinity of. R. W. Billings. Lond. 1849
- Geometry and Perspective. No date.

ingly, Thomas Gildard), while other members included John Shields, the measurer, the ironfounder Walter Macfarlane and Thomson's friend, the sculptor John Mossman. And in the published minutes for the 16th November 1870, it was recorded that, "the Council of the Glasgow Architectural Society having concluded an arrangement for a union of that body with the Philosophical Society, as one of its Sections, the formation of the Architectural Section was declared on the 12th January. The number of members of the Section, who are also members of the Philosophical Society, is 47. They have brought into the Society a large and valuable collection of books on architecture, which remain their own property, but are freely accessible to all members of the Society. This collection occupies a separate room. A catalogue of the books will be appended to the Society's Library Catalogue, now in the press."

In fact, that catalogue seems not to have been ready for a further thirteen years. Printed by the University of Glasgow's printer, Robert Maclehose, it was published in 1883 as the *Catalogue of Books in the Library of the Philosophical Society of Glasgow, to which is added Catalogue of Books in the Library of the Architectural Section*. We reproduce the Architectural Section's catalogue here – along with the list of the Philosophical Society's own holdings listed under 'Architecture and Fine Arts' – as it is of great interest for what it tells us about the architectural culture from which Thomson emerged, even if it cannot be used as a precise guide to what was in Thomson's own library. The original library of the Glasgow Architectural Society was presumably assembled soon after its foundation and must have relied on gifts and bequests from members.

Continued on Page 10

- Gibbs, James. Designs of buildings and ornaments. Lond. 1739.
- Gibbs, John. Designs for Gothic ornaments. Vol. 1. Lond. 1853.
- Gothic architecture. Lond. 1854.
- Glasgow and its Clubs. John Strang. Glasg. 1856.
- Glasgow Architectural Society, Proceedings of. Part 1. 1865-67. 2 copies
- Glasgow Cathedral. James Collie. Lond. 1835.
- Archibald McLellan. Glasg. 1833.
- Glasgow, History of Royal Infirmary of. M. S. Buchanan. Glasg. 1832.
- Glasgow Mechanics' Magazine. Vols. 1 3, 4, and 5. 2 copies of vol. 4. Glasg. 1825-7.
- Glasgow Mechanics' and Engineers' Magazine.; 2 vols. Glasg. 1842-3.
- Glasgow past and present. Senex. 3 vols. Glasg. 1851.
- Glasgow, Sketches of the history of. James Pagan. Glasg. 1847.
- Glass, painted. James Ballantine. Edin. 1845.
- Goodwin, George, junr. The churches of London. 2 vols. Lond. 1839.
- Goodwin, Francis. Domestic architecture. 2 vols. 2 copies. Lond. 1834
- Gourlay, R. T. The Mound improvement., Edin. 1850.
- Grammar of Ornament. Owen Jones. Lond. 1856.
- Greek Vases. William Hamilton. Naples, 1791.
- Grim. Architecture moderne. Paris, no date.
- Griscom, John H. Uses and abuses of air. New York, 1850.
- Grüner, Lewis. Ornamental art. Lond. 1850.
- Descriptive letterpress.
- Fresco decorations of churches and palaces in Italy. Lond. 1854.
- Descriptive letterpress.
- Gwilt, Joseph. Beauty in Grecian architecture. Lond., no date.
- Architecture of Vitruvius. Lond. 1826.
- Rudiments of architecture. Lond. 1826.
- Hamilton, David. Original sketch designs. 3 vols.
- Hamilton, William. Greek vases. 2 vols. Naples, 1791.
- Harmonic Law of Nature. D. R. Hay. Edin. 1855.
- Harmonious Colouring, Laws of. D. R. Hay. Lond. 1838.
- Another edition. Lond. 1844.
- Hay, D. R. The harmonic law of nature. Edin. 1855.
- The Parthenon. Edin. 1853.
- Laws of harmonious colouring. Lond. 1838.
- another edition. Lond. 1844.
- Proportion, or the geometrical principle of beauty analyzed. Lond. 1843.
- Hebert, Luke. Railroads and locomotive engines. Lond. 1837.
- Hope, Thomas. An historical essay on architecture. 2 vols. Lond. 1840.
- Hospitals, Remarks on the construction of. William Stark. Edin. 1807.
- Hôtel de ville, Paris. Victor Calliat. Liège, no date.
- House Decorator; The. H. W. and A. Arrowsmith. Lond. 1840.
- Hunt, T. F. Tudor architecture. Lond. 1830.
- Iconography, Christian. M. Didron. Lond. 1851.
- Illustrations of Pavilion erected in Glasgow for the Peel banquet. Glasg. 1837.
- Industrial Arts of the nineteenth century. M. Digby Wyatt. Lond. 1851.
- Infirmary, Glasgow Royal. M. S. Buchanan. Glasg. 1832.
- Ingram, John. Memorials of Oxford. 3 vols. Oxford, 1837.
- Interior Decorations in Papier Maché. Lond., no date.
- Italy, Brick and marble architecture of. George E. Street. Lond. 1855.
- Jameson, Robert. Mineralogy. Edin. 1837.
- Jebb, Major. Ventilation of modern prisons. Lond. 1844.
- Jones, Owen. Grammar of ornament. Lond. 1856.
- Kendal, H. E. Chapel and gateway entrances Kensal Green. Lond. 1832.
- Kettering Church. R. W. Billings. Lond. 1843.

Feeding the family

Dr A.L. Macdonald uncovers details of the agreement by which Alexander Thomson's father took over the use of land as a source of income to support Alexander's burgeoning family of brothers and sisters.

A "Tack" has been located in the Scottish Record Office which describes an agreement between John Thomson (father of Alexander) and Samuel Cooper of Ballindalloch by which the former rented land from the latter.

According to the *Memoir of the Thomson Family* by Mrs W. L. Stewart²:

The Thomson family lived for many years at Endrick Cottage. They probably farmed some of the neighbouring land, as one of the sons of the second marriage [William Cooper Thomson] is mentioned as having been most useful on his father's farm during the summer vacation from Glasgow University.

The tack pinpoints the land farmed by the Thomsons and may also suggest

the date on which they took possession of Endrick Cottage.

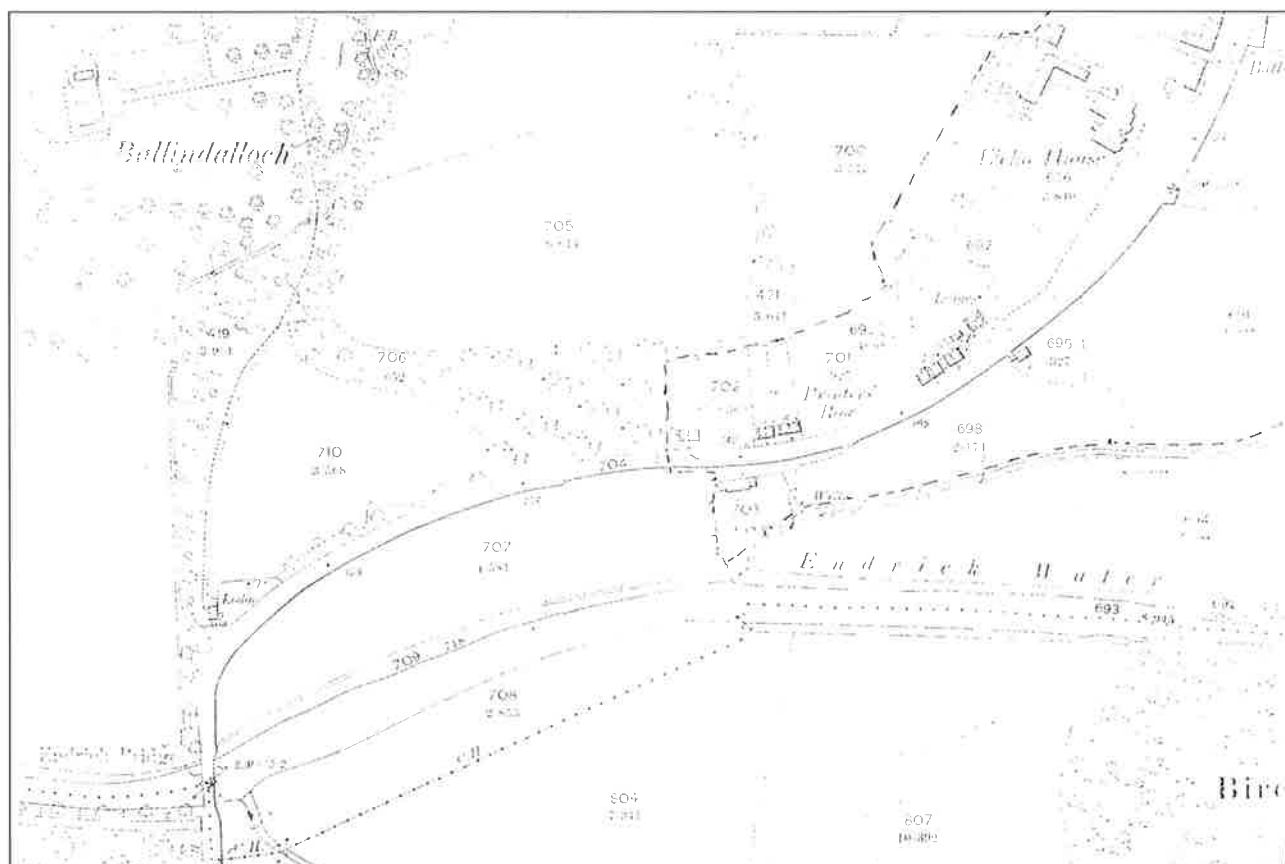
John Thomson with his wife Christian (Glass) and family moved from Larbert to Balfon in about 1793. He had found employment as a clerk in the cotton works at Ballindalloch owned by Kirkman Finlay. Christian Thomson died in 1798 leaving her husband with eight children, the oldest of whom was fifteen. He remarried in 1801 his new wife (Elizabeth Cooper) being the sister of the Burgher minister of Balfon. With her he began a second family and by 1812 there were probably ten children still at home. Was there a need for more space or for another source of income? At any rate on 4th May 1812, John Thomson entered into an agreement with Samuel Cooper, Esq. of Ballindalloch, who owned extensive lands around

Balfon, to rent some land for farming.

The document containing the agreement begins;

Tack betwixt Samuel Cooper Esqr. and John Thomson 4th May 1812, In presence...

It is contracted and agreed betwixt Samuel Cooper Esqr. of Bandalloch [sic], heritable proprietor of the lands after mentioned on one part, and John Thomson, Clerk at Ballindalloch Cotton Works residing in Balfon on the other part, in manner following; that is to say, the said Samuel Cooper hath sett, and in tack and assedation let to the said John Thomson and his heirs secluding assignees and subtenants without the consent of the said Samuel Cooper his heirs and successors had and obtained thereto in





writing, all and whole that piece of ground above Bandalloch Bridge bounded on the North and West by the Turnpike Road, on the South by the Water of Endrick and on the East by the Road leading across the Water to Brunshugle, (excepting the corner used by the inhabitants of the printers houses as a bleaching green) with the whole houses thereon: Also that piece of ground immediately east of the ground first mentioned, bounded on the North by the Turnpike Road, on the South by the Cotton Mill tailrace, on the east by the lands belonging to the Cotton Mill Company, and on the West by the foresaid road leading to Brunshugle all as presently possessed by Hugh Nicol Nurseryman in Balfron or his subtenants, lying within the Parish of Balfron and Sherifffdom of Stirling, with liberty of casting, winning and leading of peats, in the Moss of Bandalloch, for one family only, but this liberty is not to extend to that part of the

Moss where the said Samuel Cooper is in use to cast his own peats ... and that for the space of nineteen years from and after the said John Thomson's entry which is hereby declared to have commenced to the arable lands at Martinmas eighteen hundred and eleven and to commence to the houses, yards and grass at Whitsunday next thereafter....

...For which causes and on the other part, the said John Thomson binds and obliges himself, his heirs, executors and successors whatsoever, to pay to the said Samuel Cooper, his heirs, executors or assignees the sum of Thirty Pounds sterling in name of rent yearly at two terms in the year Candlemass and Lammas....

There follows detailed requirements of the tenants as to the crop rotation to be followed, the manure to be applied and the upkeep of fences and houses.

The map³ (above) shows the land rented by John Thomson as it was rep-

resented in a map drawn in 1836. His total holding was about nine acres and included the land around Endrick Cottage.

It is interesting to speculate whether 1812 is the date at which the Thomsons moved to Endrick Cottage (in which case where in Balfron were they living until then? Would Endrick Cottage be considered at that time to be part of Balfron?) or did they simply take over land that had become available because it was next to the cottage they were already occupying?

Notes

1. Scottish Record Office, SC67/49/57, f120v-123R.
2. *The Life and Works of Alexander Thomson*, R. McFadzean, p4.
3. Original in Glasgow City Archives, Mitchell Library. (The Thomson's farm is that marked as 'The property of Samuel Cooper Esq.'. The building in the left-hand field is Endrick Cottage.

Possibly, the list is not complete as certain books may have gone missing – as they so often do. The “specimen” *Villa and Cottage Architecture* submitted to the society by Blackie & Son in 1866 is not listed, for instance, while of the two volumes of Schinkel’s *Sammlung Architektonische Entwürfe* given by Thomson in 1863, only one would seem to have survived on the shelves two decades later. Perhaps this was because the Architectural Section did not flourish; no meetings were held between December 1872 and May 1876, when it became active again. But by then Thomson was dead.

A FEW general observations on the collection may be made. It is no surprise to find that, in addition to the Schinkel, a volume of Leo von Klenze’s designs was in the library: proof – if proof were needed – of the influence of German Neoclassicism in Scotland in general and on Thomson in particular. But what, perhaps, are significant by their absence are many of the key polemics of the Gothic Revival. The works by Pugin in the catalogue are those of Augustus *père*, not *fils*, and there is nothing by Gilbert Scott while Ruskin’s *Seven Lamps* and *Stones of Venice* were in the general library of the Philosophical Society and not in that of the Architectural Section. All this, combined with the absence of the *Ecclesiologist* and any other tracts by the Cambridge Camden Society, surely demonstrates that the Catholic and Anglo-Catholic theological arguments in favour of Gothic cut little ice in Presbyterian Scotland – as Thomson’s attacks on the Gothic Revival also confirm. And that there was no copy of *Contrasts* or *The True Principles of Pointed or Christian Architecture* tends to support Juliet Kinchin’s contention that the writings of A.W.N. Pugin only had an impact in Scotland towards the end of the century.

- Klenze, L. Von. *Architektonische Entwürfe*. Stuttgart, 1830.
- Knight, F. *Scroll ornaments*. Lond., no date.
- King, T. *Cabinet work*. Lond., no date.
- Landon, C. Y. *Vies et œuvres des peintres les plus célèbres*. 16 vols. Paris, 1803-13.
- Langley, Batty. *Architecture*. No date.
- Layard, Austin H. *Discoveries at Nineveh*. Lond. 1851.
- Lecropt Church. *Original drawings*.
- Lenormant, Charles. *Antiquités Égyptiennes*. Paris, 1841.
- Leslie, John. *Guide to surveying*. Edin. 1806.
- Letarouilly, P. *Edifices de Rome moderne*. 3 vols. Liège, 1843.
- 1 vol. Liège, 1849.
- Linlithgow Palace. James Collie. Lond., no date.
- London, Churches of. George Goodwin. 2 vols. Lond. 1838.
- in the nineteenth century. James Elmes. Lond. 1827.
- Public buildings of. J. Britton and A. Pugin. 3 vols. Lond. 1825.
- Views of. Thomas H. Shepherd. 2 vols. Lond. 1827-29.
- Loudon, J. C. *Encyclopædia of architecture*. Lond. 1839.
- Luton Park Chapel. H. Shaw. Lond. 1829.
- Mackenzie, Frederick. *Chapel of St. Stephen, Westminster*. Lond. 1844.
- McLellan, Archibald. *Glasgow Cathedral*. Glasg. 1833.
- McWilliams, Robert. *Dry rot*. Lond. 1818.
- Mahan, D. H. *Civil engineering*. Edited by Professor Barlow. Glasg. 1838.
- Mechanics’ Magazine*. Vols. 3, 4, and 5. Glasg. 1825-7.
- Vol. 4. 1826. (Another copy.)
- Mechanics’ and Engineers’ Magazine*. 2 vols. Glasg. 1842-3.
- Mechanics, Compendium of* Robert Brunton. Glasg. 1837.
- Metropolitan Church of Canterbury. John Britton. Lond. 1836.
- Milizia, Francesco. *Lives of architects*. Vol. 1. Lond. 1826.
- Mineralogy. Robert Jameson. Edin. 1837.
- Moller, George. *Origin and progress of Gothic architecture*. Lond. 1824.
- Monumens Funéraires*. Normand Fils. Paris, 1832.
- Monuments, &c., Designs for*. T. Faulkner. Lond. 1835.
- Monuments, Designs for*. Glasg., no date.
- Monuments and Chimney Pieces*. No date.
- Mortars and Cements*. L. J. Vicat. Lond. 1837.
- Nicholson, Peter. *Architectural dictionary*. Lond., no date.
- *New practical builder*. 2 vols. Lond. 1823.
- 1 vol. Lond. 1843.
- *Principles of architecture*. 3 vols. Lond. 1809.
- Nineveh, Discoveries at*. Austin H. Layard, D.C.L. Lond. 1851.
- Normand Fils. *Monumens Funéraires*. Paris, 1832.
- Nubie, *Antiquités de la*. F. C. Gau. Paris, 1822.
- Ornament, Architectural*. C. H. Tatham. Lond. 1826.
- *Grammar of*. Owen Jones. Lond. 1856.
- Ornamental Art*. Lewis Grüner. Lond. 1850.
- Ornamental Art. Descriptive letterpress*. Lond. 1850.
- Ornamental Gates, Lodges, &c.* 2 vols. Lond. 1841.
- Ornamental Metal Work*. Henry Shaw. Lond. 1836.
- Ornamente Aller Klassischen Kunst Epochen*. William Zahn. Berlin, 1871.
- Ornaments, Scroll*. F. Knight. Lond., no date;
- Ornament Polychrome*. M. A. Racinet., 2 vols. Lond. 1873.
- Oxford, *Memorials of*. John Ingram. 3 vols. Oxford, 1837.
- Pagan, James. *Sketches of the history of Glasgow*. Glasg. 1847.
- Palladio, A. *Architecture*. Lond. 1721.
- Lond. 1738.
- Palestine and Egypt. Companion to Seaton’s maps*. Lond. 1838.

In contrast, it is immediately apparent that many of the architectural works in the library were concerned with the Classical orders and with Classical buildings, both ancient and modern. The volumes by Stuart and Revett were there, of course, along with a number of works on the monuments of Egyptian and Nubia and Austin Layard's great study of Nineveh. However, the presence of publications by Britton, Billings, Rickman and others show that an interest in Gothic buildings existed but that it was largely antiquarian and historical. Several books deal with villa design and the Picturesque – important to Thomson – while the listing of several works on colour theory and ornament may possibly reflect Thomson's particular interest in polychromatic decoration. But books on aesthetics and historical subjects were balanced by books on professional matters, and the sober practicality of the Scots is suggested by the inclusion of useful studies on ventilation, the use of zinc, the preservation of timber and on dry rot. It was altogether a rich and civilised library, and it is depressing, if all too typical, to know that what survived of the books belonging to the Philosophical Society of Glasgow were all sold and dispersed in the 1960s.

- Papier Maché, Interior decorations in. Lond., no date.
- Paris and its environs, Views of. Pugin and Heath. Lond. 1823.
- Paris. Hôtel de Ville. Victor Calliat. Liege, no date.
- Parallèle des Maisons de. Victor Calliat. Paris, 1850.
- Parker, Charles. Villa rustica. Lond. 1833.
- Another edition. Lond. 1848.
- Parthenon, The. D. R. Hay. Edin. 1853.
- Paterson, James. Memoir of James Fillans. Paisley, 1854.
- Perspective. George Douglas. Edin. 1805.
- James Gray. Lond. 1826.
- Philosophical Society, Constitution of. Glasg. 1850
- Pictorial Gallery of Arts. Vol. 2. Lond. 1847.
- Pompeiana. The topography, edifices and ornaments of Pompeii. Sir William Gell. 2 vols. Lond. 1832.
- Power of Form applied to geometric tracery. R. W. Billings. Edin. 1851.
- Practical Builder. Peter Nicholson. 2 vols. Lond. 1823.
- 1 vol. Lond. 1843.
- Proceedings of the Glasgow Architectural Society. Part 1., 1865-67. 2 copies.
- Proportion, or the geometric principle of beauty analyzed. D. Lond. 1843.
- Public Buildings of the West of England. John Foulston. Lond.
- Pugin and Heath. Views of Paris and its environs. Lond. 1823.
- Pugin, Britton and. Public buildings of London. 3 vols. Lond. 1825
- A. Specimens of Gothic Architecture. 2 vols. 2 copies. Lond. 1821.
- Examples of Gothic architecture. 2 vols. Lond. 1831.
- Racinet, M. A. L'ornement polychrome. 2 vols. Lond. 1873.
- Railroads and Locomotive Engines. Luke Hebert. Lond. 1837.
- Reid, David B. Ventilation. Lond. 1844.
- Hugo. The steam engine. Edin. 1840.
- Reports and Papers of the Associated Architectural Societies of Northampton, York, Lincoln, and Bedford. Vol. 2. 1852-3.
- Richardson, C. J. Elizabethan architecture. Lond. 1837.
- Warming and ventilation. Lond. 1856.
- Rickman, Thomas. Architecture. Lond. 1825.
- Robinson, P. I. Rural architecture. Lond. 1828.
- Woburn Abbey. Lond. 1833.
- Designs for villas. Lond. 1836.
- Robson, E. R. School architecture. Lond. 1874.
- Rome, Ancient buildings of. Antony Desgodetz. 2 vols. Lond. 1821.
- Edifices de Rome moderne. P. Letarouilly. 3 vols. Liège, 1843.
- 1 vol. Liège, 1849.
- Rondelet, Jean. L'art de bâtir. 5 vols. Paris, 1830.
- Rosslyn Chapel and Castle, Historical description of. Edin. 1827.
- St. Mark's Basilica. Venice, no date.
- St. Stephen, Westminster, Chapel of. Frederick Mackenzie. Lond. 1844.
- Salisbury, History of Cathedral Church. John Britton. Lond. 1836.
- Schinkel, Carl F. Architektonische Entwürfe. 2nd vol.
- School Architecture. E. R. Robson. Lond. 1874.
- Scotland, The baronial and ecclesiastical antiquities of. R. W. Billings. 4 vols. Edin. 1845-52. Senex. Glasgow past and present. 3 vols. Glasg. 1851,
- Sharpe, Edmund. Architectural parallels. 2 vols. Lond. 1848.
- Shaw, H. Luton Park Chapel. Lond. 1829.
- Ornamental metal work. Lond. 1836.
- Shaw, R. Norman. Architectural sketches. Lond. 1858.
- Shepherd, J. H. Views of London. 2 vols. Lond. 1827-29.
- Shotts Iron Company Catalogue. Edin., no date.
- Skelton Church, Yorkshire. Ewan Christian. Lond. 1846.
- Soane, John. Designs in Architecture. Lond., no date.
- Specifications for practical architecture. Alfred Bartholomew. Lond. 1841.

- Spires and Towers of England. Charles Wickes. 3 vols. Lond. 1853-9.
- Stark, William. Remarks on the construction of hospitals. Edin. 1807.
- Steam Engine, The. Hugo Read. Edin. 1840.
- Strang, John. Glasgow and its clubs. Glasg. 1856.
- Street, George E. Brick and marble architecture of Italy. Lond. 1855.
- Stuart and Revett. Antiquities of Athens. Vols. 2, 3, and 4. Lond. 1787.
- Antiquities of Athens. 1 vol. Lond. 1837.
- Surveying, Guide to. John Leslie. Edin. 1806.
- Tatham, C. H.. Architectural ornament. Lond. 1826.
- Taylor, G. L. and Cresey, E. Architectural antiquities of Rome. 2 vols. Lond 1821.
- Temple Church, London, The. R. W. Billings. Lond. 1838.
- Texier, C. and Pullan, R. P., Byzantine architecture. Lond. 1864.
- Thomson, T. Designs for cottages and villas. Lond. 1840.
- Throndeim, Cathedral of. Christiania, 1859.
- Timber, Preservation of. Sir William Burnett. Lond., no date.
- Tracery, Geometric, Carlisle Cathedral and Brancepath Church. R. W. Billings. Lond. 1842 and 1845.
- Transactions of the Architectural Institute of Scotland. 2 vols. Edin. 1850-54
- Transactions of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Lond. 1839 and 1862 to 71. 6 vols.
- Tredgold, Thomas. Cast Iron. Lond. 1824.
- Elementary principles of carpentry. Lond. 1840.
- Trendall, E. W. Designs for Cottages and villas. Lond. 1831.
- Venice, Basilica di S. Marco. No date.
- Ventilation. David B. Reid. Lond. 1844.
- Ventilation. Hints on. W. Walker. Lond. 1850.
- of modern prisons. Major Jebb. Lond. 1844.
- Warming and. C. J. Richardson. Lond. 1856.
- Vicat, L. J. Mortars and cements. Lond. 1837.
- Vies et œuvres des Peintres les plus célèbres. 16 vols. C. P.. Landon.
- Villa Rustica. Charles Parker. Lond. 1838.
- Lond. 1848.
- Villas, Designs for. P. F. Robinson. Lond. 1836.
- Vitruvius, Architecture. Joseph Gwilt. Lond. 1826.
- Wakefield, Pauper Lunatic Asylum of. Watson and Pritchett. York, 1819.
- Walker, W. Hints on Ventilation. Lond. 1850.
- Wallis, N. The Carpenter's treasure. Lond., no date.
- Waring, J. B. The arts connected with architecture in Central Italy. Lond. 1858.
- Warming and Ventilation. C. J. Richardson. Lond. 1856.
- Watson and Pritchett. Pauper Lunatic Asylum of Wakefield. York, 1819.
- Westminster, Chapel of St. Stephen. Frederick Mackenzie. Lond. 1844.
- Westminster, New palace of. Charles Barry. Lond. 1849.
- White, John. Rural architecture. Glasg. 1845.
- Wickes, Charles. Spires and towers of England. 3 vols.
- Windsor Castle. Gandy and Baud. Lond. 1845.
- Winkles. Cathedral Churches. Vol. 1. Lond. 1838.
- Wire fencing, gates, &c. Charles D. Young. Edin. 1850.
- Woburn Abbey. P. F. Robinson. Lond. 1833.
- Woods, Joseph. Letters of an architect. 2 Vols. Lond. 1828.
- Wyatt, M. Digby. Art of the thirteenth century. Lond. 1851.
- Wright, G. N. Guide to Dublin. Lond, 1825.
- Young, Charles. Wire fencing, gates, &c. Edin. 1850
- Zahn, Wilhelm. Ornamente aller klassischen Kunst Epochen. Berlin 1871.

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Adam, Robert and James. Works in architecture. 2 vols, 4to, Lond. 1853.

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The Newsletter

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Three brothers, the archbishop and the King

FOR Scotland, the Restoration of Charles II in 1660 was a mixed blessing: while it swept away the Cromwellian union and its garrisons, and restored the Scottish Parliament, it also proclaimed Charles II's supremacy over Church and State, and restored both private patronage in Church livings and Episcopacy: James Sharp, minister of Crail, who travelled to London as representative of the Scottish clergy, returned as Archbishop of St Andrews.

In England, nonconformist religious teaching and practice was rejected, the services of the Anglican Church restored, and harsh laws enacted against all nonconformists. Thus the Conventicle Act made it a crime

for five persons or more, "over and above those of the same household," to gather in any house or in any place for worship, unless the service was conducted according to the forms of the Church of England.¹

In Scotland, the situation was made more complex by the country's long-time resistance to episcopacy as a form of church government. When the King's Commissioner, the Earl of Middleton, journeyed with his council to Glasgow in September 1662, the city's newly appointed Archbishop, Andrew Fairfoull, complained that none of the town's ministers had acknowledged his authority. He moved the council

to issue and enforce an act and proclamation, banishing all such clergymen from their houses, parishes and presbyteries, who should not, against a certain date, appear and receive collation and admission from him as their bishop.²

Middleton's council, in a session claimed to be more debauch than debate, not only accepted Fairfoull's proposal, they extended it to cover the entire country. It led, first, to the ejection

of some 400 ministers from their parishes on a single day (about one-third of the whole), then to heavy fines on those attending or supposedly allowing 'conventicles', secret outdoor prayer meetings sometimes attracting thousands of attenders.

Persecution was followed by economic sanction, as Charles' went to war with the Dutch, cutting off Scotland from its principal trading market and severely affecting the Scottish economy. In 1666, a poorly-organised if spirited army of Covenanters attempted to march on Edinburgh: its defeat was followed by torture and execution, in the east under John Leslie, Earl of Rothes (the King's new Commissioner) and Archbishop Sharp; in the west under General Tam Dalyell, "who had learned ways of terror in Russian service".³

John Maitland, Duke of Lauderdale, had been appointed Secretary of State for Scotland in 1661; in 1667 he succeeded Rothes as Royal Commissioner. At the Restoration, Lauderdale had argued against the re-imposition of episcopacy; now he worked hard to promote so many measures in the King's interests that he felt able to tell his master 'never was King so absolute as you are in poor old Scotland'. In 1669, to encourage acceptance of a moderate episcopalianism, he issued an Indulgence:

He could not entirely overturn the bishops, whom he took as a piece of political machinery and expected the Covenanters to do the same... ministers could meet in their presbyteries, and those once ejected were allowed to occupy their old livings, if vacant, on a bare acceptance of episcopacy and royal supremacy. But since the true Covenanter would never be 'a King's curate' or admit his supremacy over Christ, neither indulgence nor efforts at an

agreed comprehension rewarded the high-minded men, the saintly [Robert Leighton, bishop of Dunblane] and the young [Bishop Gilbert Burnet] included, who advised lenity, and Lauderdale accordingly began a new persecution.⁴

Lauderdale's persecution took the form of 6,000 Highland and 3,000 Lowland troops, called in to defend the King's interests, quartered in Covenanters' homes in south-west Scotland, who proceeded to loot and steal with little official discouragement. Anticipating a major rebellion, Lauderdale both introduced repressive legislation (which simply provoked further anger) and, in June 1678, summoned the Convention of Estates to vote money to pay the army needed to crush any rebellion.

While the 3rd Duke of Hamilton, 'ten or twelve of the Nobility' and 'about fifty Gentlemen of quality' (in Bishop Burnet's words)⁵ were in London complaining about Lauderdale and his methods, back in Scotland the King's Commissioner packed the Convention and, by a Government majority of almost 3:1, voted a through a £30,000 annual land tax for five years.

In 1679, across southern Scotland, men rose in armed revolt. On 3rd May, Archbishop Sharp was surprised by chance and killed by a band of Covenanters on the moors outside St Andrews. In the west, on 1st June, Graham of Claverhouse, the King's most accomplished soldier in Scotland, was defeated at Drumclog, near Strathaven. A two-pronged follow-up attack on Claverhouse's forces in Glasgow, with the Covenanters advancing through the College grounds and via Gallowgate, was beaten off at the Tolbooth, as was a 200-strong cavalry sortie by the King's forces to cut off

Covenanters regrouping at Tollcross, a mile outside the town.

As men flocked to join the Covenanters, Claverhouse withdrew from Glasgow to Kilsyth. In Edinburgh, safeguarded by the forces of the Earl of Linlithgow, the Council requested London to send English troops. Instead, Charles II sent James, Duke of Monmouth, one of his illegitimate sons, married to the wealthy Scottish heiress Anne, Countess of Buccleuch, who had been created Duke of Buccleuch and taken her surname of Scott. By 18th June Monmouth had reached Edinburgh and rallied his troops. Now, as he approached, the Covenanters crossed the Clyde at Bothwell Bridge, and camped at Hamilton Moor.

The Covenanters, at their best some 18,000 strong, had always been possessed of greater spirit than armament; now they began to suffer from lack of coherent leadership and internal dissent. As Monmouth drew near the north end of the bridge, the Covenanters began to disagree among themselves, in the words of one antagonistic commentator,

wasting their time in theological disputes and hair-splitting dissensions about their stumblings and shortcomings, their defections and back-slidings, instead of taking any measures either for offence or defence.⁶

Some Covenanters sought to send a petition to Monmouth (it was too "humbly drawn", claimed one). Others took a less conciliatory line, such as Robert Hamilton, one of the Covenanter leaders who, after earlier battles,

was much perturbed in spirit by finding that quarter had been given to five men, and he reckoned this among the first steppings aside.⁷

Meanwhile, as the man himself approached with his army,



James, Duke of Monmouth

Our men, with our divisions, slipped away still from us; for it was our common discourse, that we could do no good.⁷

In fact, whether out of dissension or apprehension, by the time Monmouth reached Bothwell Bridge, many of the Covenanters had departed, leaving an estimated 4,000 foot-soldiers and 2,000 cavalry,

which might have been tripple; "but when they came the one day, they went the next!"⁸

For both sides, the bridge strategically was important: until 1650 it was the only crossing of the Clyde between Bothwell and the source of the river. At the time of the battle it consisted of a 12-foot wide causeway on five arches, rising from both banks to a gatehouse in the centre (the bridge has been much altered and widened since).

The gatehouse was barricaded and held by another leader, Hackston of Rathillet: as he ran out of ammunition, not only did Hamilton not send help, he recalled Hackston and his men. Monmouth then led his troops across the bridge, supported by artillery (the Covenanters only had one artillery-piece), and the Covenanters' retreat became a rout: about 400 were killed,

many others were wounded, while around 1200 surrendered as prisoners on Hamilton Moor.

In the rout, many persons were killed, who had been attracted to the spot from curiosity, and had taken no part in the battle; and but for the restraining hand of the duke, who certainly did not stain his victory, the slaughter must have been excessive.⁹

Three Covenanter brothers from Denny, Stirlingshire, participated in, or at least witnessed, the battle, the eldest brother bearing a weapon made by the famed Italian swordsmith Andrea Ferrara:

"These swords were in great demand by the Covenanters as it was said that the steel blade was so firmly tempered that it could be wound up and hidden in the crown of the black felt hat that was part of their usual dress."¹⁰

If the Duke of Monmouth exercised restraint, his uncle, James, Duke of York, arriving in Scotland as Lauderdale's replacement at the year's end, was less forgiving: as Bishop Burnet was to note, James "was not born under a pardoning planet"¹¹. Forfeiture, imprisonment and torture followed his arrival; fines were imposed on landowners in Lanarkshire,

not for fighting against the king, but for being absent from the king's host, when called on to oppose the men of the Covenant. The wives and families of the "outed ministers," were turned out of Glasgow, adrift upon the world, by order of the privy council.¹²

Five years after Bothwell Bridge, James was still hanging Covenanters in Glasgow, their heads stuck on pikes on the east side of the jail before burial in the Cathedral grounds.

Luckily, not all those who participated in the battle were so

unfortunate, as evidenced by the large number of prisoners compared to the dead. Indeed,

It is said that on being upbraided by Charles for troubling him with prisoners, [Monmouth] retorted, "If you wished otherwise, you should have sent a butcher."¹³

Having been arrested, the three brothers from Denny were imprisoned in Stirling Castle:

The rigours of confinement were softened for them by the ingenuity of the wife of one of them. Learning that they occupied a cell overlooking what is now 'the Back Walk', she passed along the slope singing a familiar song, and introduced their names into the chorus; thus attracting the attention of the prisoners without arousing the interest of the guard. An understanding was established: they let down a cord in the dark, and drew up 'comforts' provided by her. Archbishop Leighton, then principal churchman in the district, had little zeal for such persecutions. Probably to him the brothers owed their release.¹³

Quite why Leighton should have done so, or even been in a position to do so, is unclear: a former professor of Divinity at Edinburgh University, he had been consecrated Bishop of Dunblane in 1661, but by the end of 1670 he had become Archbishop of Glasgow. He seems to have been well-respected by all:

Mr Leighton did behave himself with so much piety, and a due inspection into the state of his dioceses of Dunblane first, and next of Glasgow, that many of the non-conformists in these dioceses have acknowledged that in him all the good qualities of a primitive bishop seemed to be revived.¹⁴

Leighton had also made an unsuccessful intervention in the Scottish Parliament to moderate Commissioner



Archbishop Leighton

Middleton's attempts to force through the Oath of Supremacy in words which appeared to be

a handle by which the sovereign might interfere, at pleasure, and with absolute authority, in the internal regulation of the church¹⁵

Leighton's involvement with the three prisoner brothers would not therefore have been out of character. Indeed, the ill-treatment of men and women over matters of faith would have struck even closer home, for Leighton's father, Dr Alexander Leighton, had

In the reign of Charles I [been] sentenced by the Star-Chamber, for a virulent attack upon episcopacy [a work called *Zion's Plea against Prelacy*], to be whipt and pilloried, to have his ears cropt, his nose slit, and his cheeks branded. This barbarous punishment was rigorously inflicted; and to it were superadded, during a long imprisonment, such atrocious severities as savoured more of vindictive malignity than of judicial retribution.¹⁶

A decade earlier, Leighton had brokered Lauderdale's Indulgence, but had resigned from Glasgow in 1674, five years before Bothwell Bridge, the result of further machinations by

Lauderdale, who himself was about to be stripped of office. Leighton retired first to Edinburgh, then to Sussex to live with his sister. On 16th July 1679, however, Charles II wrote to him from Windsor:

My Lord,— I am resolved to try what clemency can prevail upon such in Scotland as will not conform to the government of the church there; for effecting such design, I desire that you may go down to Scotland with your first conveniency, and take all possible pains for persuading all you can of both opinions to as much mutual correspondence and concord as can be: and send me from time to time characters both of men and things. In order to this design, I shall send a precept for £200 sterling upon my exchequer, till you resolve how to serve me in a stated employment. Your loving friend,
Charles R.¹⁷

Evidence of Charles' "clemency" was being felt in Edinburgh, where those Covenanters who had surrendered or been captured after Bothwell Bridge, were being held prisoner in Greyfriars churchyard. His Council there had earlier issued a proclamation calling the Covenanters "traitors" and their protest "a deperate avowed rebellion". Now Charles instructed the Council to free the prisoners

"upon their enacting themselves not to take arms against his majesty or his authority," under certification, if hereafter taken in arms at any field conventicle, they should forfeit this idemnity.¹⁸

All but three hundred accepted the King's terms; Hackston of Rathillet, was hanged as one of Sharp's murderers (he had been present at the deed but refused to strike himself); two ministers, Messrs Kid and King and several others were hanged at the site of Sharp's murder. Three hundred were sentenced to be transported to the

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Three brothers...

Barbadoes, but the ship carrying them sank off the Orkneys: 200 transportees, locked beneath battened-down hatches, drowned.

Charles' letter to Leighton was not, however, quite what it seemed; instead, it appears to have been a scheme hatched by Monmouth, the victor at Bothwell Bridge, to curry favour in Scotland, as part and parcel of his grander design to oust James, Duke of York, a Roman Catholic, from the succession and to place himself on the throne. In this, he ultimately failed: by September 1679, Charles had forced him into exile.

It is unclear whether Leighton was able to exercise any authority or even ministry in Scotland in the period between July and September 1679. Back in Stirling, however, the three brothers, with or without Leighton's intervention, were released, presumably on having agreed to the bond, the eldest even retaining his prized sword.¹⁹ The eldest brother then returned to the farm he owned in Denny Greens, on the upper waters of the River Carron in Stirlingshire: a confirmed bachelor, his younger brothers might have expected to inherit his property. However, late in life,

he surprised his friends... by marrying a widow.²⁰

The belated bridegroom's name was John Thomson. Among his several great-grandsons would be Alexander 'Greek' Thomson.

Notes

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